

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al)

vs)

ARAKI, Sadao, et al)

AFFIDAVIT OF IIMURA, Minoru

Having first duly sworn on oath, as on attached sheet and in accordance with the procedure followed in my country, I hereby depose as follows:

1. I am IIMURA, Minoru, an ex-Lieutenant General.

2. From April, 1921, to March, 1922, I served in the Army General Staff as a member of a section of which General ARAKI was the chief. Again from August, 1928, to August, 1929, I served as instructor in the Army Staff College of which the General was the President. Thus I served twice as a subordinate officer of the General.

3. During his term of office as President of the Army Staff College, Gen. ARAKI, unlike his predecessors, used to lay special stress on the culture of the moral character as well as technical faculties of the students as officers of the Japanese Army. Whenever he gave an instruction or special lecture to the students, he did not fail to advise them to cultivate their moral character so that they might be qualified in the future to command large forces or assist superior officers. After outlining the course of the First World War, he would teach the students that it was our old tradition that no war be opened without sufficient reasons justifying it. He liked to trace the tragic end of those who were driven by his ambition to fight unjustifiable wars. In speaking of Napoleon he used to say that although with his brilliant genius, adamant will and manly and courageous character, he was a model of soldiers, the motives of his wars and above all his behavior after the enthronement, were quite contrary to the principles of our Imperial Army, and would add that the students should take advantage of the object lessons given by Napoleon. He often taught the students how to behave when in the future they might be in some vital positions of the state. He taught them not to worry about the small extent of the Japanese territory, but to keep to the O-Yashima (the original islands of the Japanese Empire), saying: "If we manifest the virtues of our Empire and clarify the light of our nation, our country will prosper of its own accord. Never suffer our country to be invaded by other nations, but never think of invading other countries. The true aim of our Army lies in manifesting the Imperial virtues." In regard to the behavior of soldiers in battle fields, the General always remarked that strict discipline be enforced so that there could be no room for criticism against the Army of the Japanese Empire which was one of the greatest Powers in the world. In this connection, he said, tracing his own personal experiences during the Russo-Japanese War, that the psychology at the front was a strange thing, that therefore it was very difficult even for highly cultured officers to control themselves in battles and that it was necessary, especially for the graduates of the Army Staff College, to cultivate their virtues as well as intellectual faculties. He emphasized that, besides complying with international treaties, it was necessary to refrain from resorting to any weapons or modes of operation which would involve injuries to civilians, and warned them never to listen to the abhorrent proposals in Europe that noxious gases and bacteria be used in war.

He said that victory should be perpetuated and that if any one of the graduates of the Army Staff College should do anything which would provoke resentment on the part of the enemy forces or enemy nation, it would be a shame to the College.

He taught his students that despite the general state of confusion prevailing at that time, none of them should commit any imprudent act which might be inconsistent with his duties, and that they should elevate their ideas and widen their range of view. Above all it is to be mentioned here that during his term of office as President of the College, the General gave to the students a precedent-breaking task entitled "Rules of Conduct for Japanese Officers," to be answered by each student. By commenting upon the answers of the students, the General showed them specifically all the above principles.

4. During his term of office at the Army Staff College, Gen. ARAKI annually took the second-year class students of the College on a trip to Manchuria in order to study the historic remains of the Russo-Japanese War. I also took part in this trip for about three weeks in my capacity as regular instructor on the history of war for the class. It was in the spring of 1929.

From the time of our departure from the harbor of Kobe, the General tried to be in constant contact with the students and utilized all the time he could spare to talk with them with a view to their moral education. I was always present at such talks as regular instructor. His talks mainly concerned his personal experiences in the Russo-Japanese War in which he took part as adjutant of the Umezawa Mixed Brigade. He narrated the circumstances of the battles at the actual spots.

What impressed the students as well as myself was the fact that there was not the slightest sign of bellicosity in his talk. On the contrary, he preferred to dwell upon the miseries and hardships of war, citing such sayings as: "War is the gravest matter of the state. Whoever goes to war cannot be sure about the possible place of his end." - a quotation from Sun-tse, a Chinese classical writer on strategy. His tone was always very grave and somber. The General consistently held that every soldier should conform himself to the Emperor's will, and in his instructions to the students he used to quote the Imperial rescripts of the peace-loving emperors of Japan. Especially he often quoted the Imperial Rescript which the Emperor Meiji gave to the members of his army and navy in 1882 in order to show that the duty of the Japanese Army and Navy exclusively consisted in the defence of the country, and by no means in aggression.

5. As regards war mementos, he taught: "Never think of taking back mementos from the battle field. Such an idea borders on taking spoils of war. The meritorious deeds of a soldier in battles are enough as his trophy. If he may return home alive, his flesh and blood will make the finest trophy for him. If you wish to take something, take a broken piece of cannon ball, and nothing more."

6. As stated above, neither in the General Staff nor in the Staff College could I hear the General utter anything which sounded aggressive or bellicose. On the contrary, I often heard him say that the true nature of "bu" - i.e., military arts in general - lay in the prevention of war, as was clearly shown by the etymology of the Chinese character "bu" which derived its origin from "giving up arms."

7. It happened one day during the above mentioned trip to Manchuria that we passed through a village of Manchurians, where we found the abandoned corpse of a Manchurian lying on the ground. On discovering the body, the General called the students together and said in a sad and impressive tone: "Poor fellow! This dead man may, like other people, have parents and brothers. Yet in this remote place there is none to take care of him in agonies of death, and none to bury him after death." We were all so deeply moved by his humane compassion that all of us took off our caps to express sorrows for the dead. We afterwards learned from a farmer in the neighborhood that the dead man had entered the village to steal hens and had been discovered and killed by the villagers with clubs. The farmer added that within a few days or so dogs wandering here and there would demolish the body. We were very much astonished by the disorder in Manchuria at that time.

8. The General always welcomed his visitors, whether they were civilians, his subordinate officers or young students, respected their personality and treated them with courtesy, kindness and sympathy. Whenever young officers were going to resort to imprudent actions, he used to dissuade them from such frivolities.

During the above mentioned trip to Manchuria, he sometimes held a table talk with the students. At such meetings he would show the right way for the Japanese and especially for the Japanese soldiers. "Be manly and upright", "be upright and broad-hearted", etc. These were his favorite mottoes which were the rules of conduct for all those who were enlightened by him.

On this 26th day of
August, 1947, at Tokyo.

DEPONENT IIMURA, Minoru (seal)

I, HASUOKA, Takaaki, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

On the same date
at Tokyo.

Witness (signed) HASUOKA, Takaaki (seal)

OATH

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth withholding nothing and adding nothing.

IIMURA, Minoru (seal)

Def. 2. 2.

no. 1000

61 Dec 21 1918

自前條ノ違法ハ固ヨリ非戦員ニ慘害ノ及ブ
希冀又行動ハ慎シムベキコト、從ツテ毒瓦斯細
菌戰ノ話ガ歐洲ニアルヲ非難シ斷ジテ耳ヲ傾ケ
ルナト教ヘラレタ。

勝利ハ永遠デナケレバナラス。敵軍及敵國民ニ
怨マルル様ナ事ヲシテハ陸軍大學ヲ出タモノノ
恥デアルト訓話サレマシタ。

當時世相ハ相當荒レテ居タガ輕舉妄動シテ本分
ヲ誤ル様ナコトヲシテハナラスト學生ニ説明シ
同時ニ高キ識見ヲ養ヒ視野ヲ廣クセヨト説カレ
マシタ。

特ニ記スベキハ校長時代ニ會テ先例ナキ事デア
ルガ「我が將校ノ心得ベキ本義」トイフ題ニテ
全學生ニ課題ヲ與ヘ其答解ヲ本トシ之レヲ批判
シテ個々ニ以上ノ如キ本義ヲ示サレマシタ。

三 荒木大將ガ陸軍大學校々長時代毎年ノ例ニ倣ヒ
陸軍大學校二年學生ヲ引率シ日露戰爭ノ戰跡研
究ノ爲ニ滿洲ニ戰史旅行ヲ實施セラレタコトガ
アリマス。私ハ同年戰史專任教官トシテ三週
間許リ此旅行ニ參加致シマシタ。ソレハ昭和四
年（一九二九年）春ノコトデアリマス。

荒木大將ハ神戸乗船以來終始學生ト行動ヲ共ニ
セラレ成シ得ル限りノ時間ヲ利用シテ學生ト席

2

格養成ニ重キヲ置ケト致ヘラレマシタ。
 ソシテ第一次歐州戰場ノ経過ヲ述ベテ戦争ハ古
 來ヨリ妄リニ爲スベキデナク名分ナキ戦ハ斷ジ
 テセズ様ニセネバナラス。一時ノ野望ニ驅ラレ
 テ戦ヒシモノノ果亡ノ跡ヲ尋ネ奈翁ヲ評シテハ
 天才ト努力又性格ノ明快ニシテ勇ラシキハ學ブ
 ベキモノアルモ其戦争ノ名分特ニ帝位ニ就キテ
 ヨリノ行動ハ我ガ軍ノ本質ニ比ベテ學ブベキデ
 ナイノミナラズヨキ誠ヲ我等ニ教ヘテ居ルト訓
 ヘラレマシタ。且ツ他日巨嶺ニ参戦シタ時ニ特
 ニ心得テ置クベキ事ヲ強ク教ヘラレ又領土ノ大
 小ハ考フベキデナイ。我ガ後群ノ地大八島一多
 数ノ島一ノ日本ヲ守レソコニ國ノ徳國民ノ光ヲ
 發揮スレバ國家ハ自ラ榮ヘル、他國ノ侵略ヲ許
 サザルト同時ニ假リニモ侵略ヲ考フルナ、日本
 軍ハ皇徳ヲ盛シニスルニアルト結論サレルノガ
 常デアリマシタ。戰場ノ事ハ言フ迄モナイガ世
 界ノ強國ノ一タル日本軍隊ガ後口指ヲササレヌ
 様軍全般ヲ戒備スル様ニセヨト強調サレタ。コ
 レニ就テハ日露戦争ノ体以テ語リテ戰場ノ心理
 ハ別デアル。平素後進ノ高キモノニテモ稍モス
 レバ邪道ニ陥リ易イ。特ニ陸軍大學校ヲ出タモ
 ノハ才能ヨリモ此點ニ於テ心得ヲ強クスルコト

Leaf 2226

Doc 2118

日清戦争ノ違法ハ固ヨリ非戦員ニ被害ノ及ブ
兵船又行動ハ慢シムベキコト、從ツテ華瓦斯細
菌戦ノ話ガ歐洲ニアルヲ非難シ断ジテ耳ヲ傾ケ
ルナト教ヘラレタ。

勝利ハ永遠デナケレバナラス。敵軍及敵國民ニ
怨マルル様ナ事ヲシテハ陸軍大學ヲ出タモノノ
恥デアルト訓話サレマシタ。

當時世相ハ相當荒レテ居タガ輕暴妄動シテ本分
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究ノ爲ニ滿洲ニ戦史旅行ヲ實施セラレタコトガ
アリマス。私ハ同學年戦史専任教官トシテ三週
間許リ此旅行ニ参加致シマシタ。ソレハ昭和四
年（一九二九年）春ノコトデアリマス。
荒木大將ハ神戸乗船以來終始學生ト行動ヲ共ニ
セラレ成シ得ル限りノ時間ヲ利用シテ學生ト席

ノ同ジウシ學生ノ教育薰陶ニ當ラレマシタガ、
私ハ專任教官トシテ常ニ列席致シマシタ。
大將ノ學生ニ對スル御話ハ主トシテ日露戦争ニ
於テ極澤混成旅團ノ副官トシテノ實戰談デアリ
マシテ現地ニ於テ當時ノ真相ヲ御話ニナツタモ
ノデアリマス。

私給メ學生ノ受ケマシタ印象ハ好戰的トイフヨ
ワナモノハ全クナク寧ロ戦争ノ悲惨、戦争ノ困
難性ニ就テマアリ引用ノ文句モ孫子ノ所謂「兵
ハ國ノ大事、死生ノ地、存亡ノ所察セザルベカ
ラス」等デ誠ニ重苦シイモノデアリマシタ。又
大將ハ軍人ハ常ニ大御心ニ歸一シ奉ラナケレバ
ナラヌトセラレ學生ニ對スル訓話ニハ常ニ平和
ヲ愛好セラルル歴代天皇ノ御詔勅ヲ引用セラレ
特ニ明治十五年（一八八二年）軍人に賜ハツタ
勅諭ヲ引用セラレ日本軍隊ノ任務ハ一ニ國家ヲ
防衛スルニアリ決シテ侵略的ノモノデアツテ
ハナラヌト屢々御訓話ニナリマシタ。

三 戦場記念品ノ點ニツイテモ決シテ記念品ヲ考へ
ルナ其考へハ一歩誤ルト掠奪ニナル記念品ハ戦
場ノ勳功デ澤山デアル、生キテ凱旋スレバ其身
体ハ何ヨリノ記念品ダ、若シ求ムルナラバ戦場
ニ落下シタ彈ガラニテ満足セヨト教ヘラレタ。

Def. Doc 2226

六 カ、ル如ク私ハ參謀本部ニ於テモ陸軍大學校ニ於
テモ大將ハ露略的好戰的言辭ヲ一同モ聞イタ事ハア
リマシテシタ。寧ロ其反對デアリマシテ東洋
ノ武ハ戈ヲ止メルトイフ其真字ノ構成カラシテ
モ平和的ナモノ即チ戦争ヲナクスルノガソノ本
質デアルト度々訓話ヲ受ケタノデアリマス。

又前ニ述ベマシタ戦史旅行中奉天西方ノ某滿人
部落ヲ通過中ソノ部落ノ中ニ一滿人ノ遺棄死体
ガアリマシタ。大將ハ之ヲ見テ直ニ行動中ノ學
生ヲ集メ「可愛想ナモノデハナイカ、此死人ニ
モ親モアラウ兄弟モアラウ遠ク故郷ヲ離レテ誰
ノ看護ヲ受クルコトナク傍デ病氣ニ苦シミ死
ンデモ葬ツテケレルモノモナイ」ト心カラ御話
セラレ我々一同大將ノ人間味豊ナ同情心ニ感激
シシミリト致シテ屍体ニ對シ脱帽シ之ヲ弔フ
タモノデアリマス。然ルニ此ノ屍体ハ附近ノ農
民ニ聞ケバ鷄ヲトリニ來タ夜盜ダカラ昨夜撲殺
シタ、三日經テバ野犬ガ新肉ニ片ヅケルトイフ
ノデ當時ノ滿洲ノ無秩序ニ驚キマシタ。

又同大將ハ軍人以外ノ方デモ部下デモ若イ學生
デモ誰ニデモ胸襟ヲ開イテ他人ノ人格ヲ尊重シ
テ叮嚀ニ御話ニナリ且又親切ニアフレタ同情的
ニ待遇サレマシタ。又大將ハ青年將校等少シデ

2226
Leyden

Leaf 100

モ過激ノ考ヘニ走ルモノニハ諄々トシテ御教示
ニナリ越見ノ行動ヲ戒メラレマシタ。
戦史旅行中モ學生等ノ座談等ニ於テハ常ニ人間
トシテノ日本人又日本算人トシテノ臨ムベキ正
シイ道ヲ示サレ、強カレ併シ正シカレ、正シカ
レソシテ濁アレトハ常ニ出ル言葉デアリマシテ
其後我々ノ行動ノ基準トナツタモノデアリマシ
タ。

昭和二十二年（一九四七年）八月二十三日 於

供述者 飯 村 稔 (印)

右ハ當立合人ノ面前ニテ宣誓シ且ツ署名捺印シタ
ルコトヲ證明シマス。

同 日 於

立合人 堀 田 高 明 (印)

宣 誓 書

良心ニ従ヒ眞實ヲ述べ何事ヲモ隠秘セズ又何事ヲ
モ附加セザルコトヲ誓フ。

署名捺印

飯 村 稔 (印)